



State of Washington

## **DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE**

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Main Office location: Natural Resources Building - 1111 Washington Street SE - Olympia, WA

### **ADDENDUM 15-020 TO DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE 10-096**

**DATED: November 11, 2010**

**Name of DNS:** 10-096 MANSFIELD POND WETLAND ENHANCEMENT

#### **Description of Original Proposal:**

The project area is owned by Bureau of Reclamation and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and is managed by the WDFW. The area is managed for consumptive (hunting and fishing) and non-consumptive (wildlife viewing), fish and wildlife related, recreation and is open to the public year-round.

In 1986 a levee complete with a water-control structure and a small swale for dewatering were constructed to capture spring water, increase wetland acreage (to ~70 acres), and assist in the removal of common carp (*Cyprinus carpio*; occurred during 1987) from the system. The intent of this project was to enhance waterfowl habitat and hunting opportunity. Unfortunately, the water control structure proved to be incapable of draining the entire basin because a low spot occurs within the basin. Further, beaver eventually buried the water control structure, rendering it inoperable and potentially unusable.

Lessons learned from these efforts will allow us to build a more functional design of the original project. The primary objective of this project is to regain control of water levels in the 70-ac Mansfield Pond (150 ac-ft volume) to allow for the control of tall emergent vegetation and potentially fish that compromise the value of the pond for waterfowl and other wetland wildlife. 83% of the wetland is currently covered by tall emergent vegetation, limiting waterfowl use, hunter accessibility, and habitat for breeding amphibians. Once the infrastructure is constructed, management will include maintaining tall emergent vegetation coverage at 25-50% and a relatively fish-free system. When tall emergent vegetation exceeds 50% or carp or other invasive fish begin to negatively influence water quality, submerged aquatic vegetation, or invertebrate production, we will have the ability to dewater the pond, significantly reducing fish populations, and control tall emergent vegetation through mowing and re-flooding over the top of tall emergent vegetation, which will effectively kill the plant. Water level manipulations may be utilized to encourage seasonal vegetative growth (i.e., moist soil management).

Secondary to this objective is to utilize the water released from Mansfield Pond to improve habitat conditions in the lower basins (7.3 surface acres with 15.5 ac-ft of storage capacity). This will be done without compromising the integrity of Homestead Creek (a managed trout fishery) with a surface water connection, because plugs will be installed to ensure water will spill to Crab Creek. The project will spill overflow water to Crab Creek only in the event that the lower basins cannot accommodate the volume released from Mansfield Pond. Unfortunately, we do not know the rate at which water will penetrate the soils and bedrock in the lower basins, so it is uncertain whether or not overflow to Crab Creek will occur. We will attempt to avoid overflow by slowly releasing water from Mansfield Pond during the dewatering phases.

**Description of the Addendum:**

Regular dewatering of a pond is imperative to control tall emergent vegetation and promote beneficial moist soil habitat. American beavers (*Castor canadensis*) have inhabited Mansfield Pond and inhibit our ability to dewater the pond. When we attempt to draw down the water level at Mansfield Pond, beavers plug the outlet culvert of the water control structure (WCS) which prevents draining. Therefore, regular visits by managers are necessary to remove the clogged debris from the WCS outlet so that water can continue draining.

A beaver deceiver at Mansfield Pond will prevent beaver access to the WCS and limit beavers' ability to plug the outlet structure and impact water levels on this managed wetland. Additionally, installation of a beaver deceiver will promote managers' ability to dewater Mansfield Pond and decrease the time spent clearing debris and material from the WCS.

A Land Tamer will be used to remove the accumulated sediment and debris from the WCS forebay at Mansfield Pond, and a beaver deceiver will be installed. The forebay around the current WCS will be fenced using wooden fence posts and cattle panel. Fourteen 8' wooden fence posts will be driven into the ground approximately 3' using a motorized auger. We will use the displaced soil to backfill and stabilize the posts. Five foot by 16' galvanized cattle panel will be mounted flush with the pond bottom between the fence posts. Chain link fencing will be laid on the pond bottom covering within the fenced area and extending 2' beyond its perimeter. This chain link fence will prevent beavers from digging under the cattle panel to access the WCS. Two, 24" culverts will extend 10' from the forebay toward the pond center. The culverts will be secured to cinder blocks affixed to the pond bottom, and galvanized wire mesh will fully enclose the upstream ends of both culverts to prevent beaver access. The downstream ends of the new culverts and the current WCS will be enclosed within the forebay fencing. This design increases the area for water flow to the outlet and does not give beavers a localized area to concentrate their efforts. As silt and sedimentation builds up around the forebay fencing, managers will remove the debris using the Land Tamer, shovels, and rakes.

**Proponent/Applicant:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife  
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**Location of Project or Action:** Approximately 2.75 miles west of junction of Stratford Rd and Rd 15 NE, north of Moses Lake, Grant County, Washington; Township 21 North, Range 28 East, Section 17 & 20,

**Lead Agency:** Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

**This addendum is being distributed pursuant to WACs 197-11-600 and 197-11-625. The updated information provided above does not substantially change the analysis of significant impacts in the existing environmental checklist. Based on the original DNS and the updated information provided in this addendum, we have determined that a new threshold determination is not warranted. There is no comment period associated with this SEPA addendum.**

**Responsible Official:** Lisa Wood

**Position/Title:** SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, WDFW Regulatory Services Section

**Address:** 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

If you have questions about this action, contact Lisa Wood at the address above,  
[SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:SEPADesk2@dfw.wa.gov), phone (360) 902-2260, or fax (360) 902-2946.

**DATE OF ISSUE:** March 31, 2015

**SIGNATURE:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa Wood".

SEPA Log Number: 15-020 add to DNS 10-096)